

Broad Based Planning Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Members in Attendance: Matt Shockley, Laura Samide, Leila Rostam, Amy Maharas, Lisa France, Mary Burkhart, Dustin Sites and Sara Hunter.

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with Sara reiterating our mission statement and thanking everyone for coming.

At our October 2nd meeting, it was decided to host this extra meeting to plan for a high-quality event to host on January 30, 2018; to help our high ability students and parents. This event will involve all of our subcommittee groups, so we can work together as a group to plan.

Sara reached out to Lisa Van Gemert, to be our keynote speaker and reserve the date. Sara has heard her speak before, and believes she will be beneficial to all. Lisa is herself gifted, has gifted children, and has worked both as a teacher and administrator. We will be getting the best of both worlds as she will host two daytime sessions for our high ability teachers, and present the keynote address, as well as a concurrent session that evening. Lisa has an extensive list of session topics and first we need to decide the keynote topic, and then decide what session topic we want her to present afterwards. Sara handed out copies of Lisa's topics for the group to review.

Alongside her breakout session, we will still host a student panel and also a counselor mindfulness session. The group chose "The Five-Headed Dragon: Threats to Giftedness" as the keynote address. We can choose the length of this speech as well. One-hour in length was decidedly the best choice.

Logistics also need to be established at tonight's meeting. Together we will work on all of these items. We know that the evening will begin in the auditorium at Avon High School. For the breakout sessions, we can keep Lisa Van Gemert in the auditorium, for people to who would like to stay for her session. The group selected "Gift of Self" as her breakout session. Matt Shockley was asked to select the other two locations to help with the logistics of moving students/families around with ease. Matt suggested the cafeteria (with their new sound system), and the Lecture Hall in the ALC. Should this night be for parents or family? Last time we hosted parent night, some students came, which was fine, but was aimed more towards parents. It was agreed to keep this night parent focused.

Other logistics? When should we begin – 6:30 or 7:00 p.m.? With this being in the middle of winter, the earlier the better. How long should it be? The group felt that the hour-long keynote speech followed by one of three break-out sessions would allow parents to attend the entire evening. It was agreed to start the evening with the keynote address in the AHS Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. At 7:30, a fifteen-minute break would allow parents to move about the building to attend the breakout session of their choice from 7:45 – 8:30 p.m. The three concurrent sessions will be: "Gift of Self" by Lisa Van Gemert in the AHS Auditorium, a Student Panel, and Counselor's Mindfulness session to be hosted in the AHS cafeteria and ALC Tiered Lecture Hall.

Matt Shockley agreed to get five or six students to be on the student panel. These students should be high ability students in their junior or senior year with a variety of extra-curricular activities to help parents/students with the balancing of homework and the demands of music/sports. With the focus on

balance, the student panel will also answer screened questions from parents in attendance. Laura Samide will work with fellow counselors for the Counselor's Mindfulness session and let Sara know more as the details unfold.

The only other event at the high school that night will be girl's sectional basketball. We will need marketing to let families know that Parent Night families will enter Door 33, while basketball fans will need to enter Door 31. Barb Marcotte and Sara Hunter will work with Carol Aylor for signage.

What about a paper program for the evening? The group supported a paper program that also allowed for a place for parents to jot down notes. Sara and Barb will work on the program together.

Greeters/smiling faces to help direct attendees? Name tags for all Broad Based Planning Committee members will be made and available to members to pin on that evening to help families with any questions or concerns they may have. Barb will make these and have available to members that night.

Should we have parents RSVP? As it might be nice to have an idea as to how many will be in attendance, we do not want anyone to feel unwelcome if they do not RSVP in advance. No RSVP will be needed, but if members could do their best to count guests at each session and the keynote address, that would be ideal.

How do we get the word out? An email will be sent out after Thanksgiving to all high ability tagged students. Mary Burkhart suggested that we send four emails out to families to introduce the meeting to families on November 29th, with friendly follow-up reminders on December 13th, January 10th and finally on January 24th. This gives families four different times to place this date on their calendar, with no registration required.

What about a survey for parents to complete at the end of the evening? A simple survey for families to complete can be advertised with a slide at the end of the breakout sessions. Mary would like to work with Sara on the communication preview. The question was asked if we should advertise on social media. Since this is being paid for by high ability grant funds, we need to keep the focus on high ability students. Although these topics can help all students, we cannot jeopardize funding by opening this evening to all families.

Sara thanked everyone for the great planning this evening. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.